Next, the mapping index for one of the equidistant servers is calculated using a predefined equation, STEP 2408. In particular, for k=0 to the number of equidistant servers-1, the mapping index is equal to the [((node_number)mod(number_of_equidistant_servers)+k) mod(number_of_equidistant_servers)], where mod refers to the module operation defined as the integer remainder of a division operation.

A3

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2-3, without prejudice, and add new claims 4-36. All claims are reproduced herein for the Examiner's convenience.

Sub B6

1. (UNCHANGED) A method of controlling system traffic of a clustered computing environment, said method comprising:

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mapping one or more node addresses, for a service to be provided, to one or more network objects defined for said service;

obtaining from said one or more network objects, one or more priorities of said service; and

contacting said service based on said one or more priorities.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CANCELED)

Sub B7

4. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein said mapping comprises:

identifying one or more subnetwork objects for said one or more node addresses; and

retrieving from said one or more subnetwork objects an indication of the one or more network objects.

A4 Cont

5. (NEW) The method of claim 4, wherein said identifying for a node address of the one or more node addresses comprises performing an operation of the node address and a subnetwork mask corresponding to the node address to obtain an identification of a subnetwork object for the node address.

6. (NEW) The method of claim 5, wherein said operation comprises a logical AND operation.

7. (NEW) The method of claim 1, further comprising ordering the one or more priorities.

8. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein said service comprises a system registry.

9. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein a network object of said one or more network objects is associated

with one or more subnetworks, and a subnetwork of said one or more subnetworks is associated with one or more nodes having one or more node addresses.

10. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the traffic for the service is restricted to one or more networks specified for that service.

11. (NEW) The method of claim 1, further comprising obtaining the one or more node addresses.

12. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein the obtaining is dependent on the service to be provided.

13. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein said service comprises a system registry service, and said obtaining comprises obtaining the one or more node addresses from a local configuration.

14. (NEW) A system of controlling system traffic of a clustered computing environment, said system comprising:

means for mapping one or more node addresses, for a service to be provided, to one or more network objects defined for said service;

means for obtaining from said one or more network objects, one or more priorities of said service; and

means for contacting said service based on said one or more priorities.

15. (NEW) The system of claim 14, wherein said mapping comprises:

means for identifying one or more subnetwork objects for said one or more node addresses; and

means for retrieving from said one or more subnetwork objects an indication of the one or more network objects.

16. (NEW) The system of claim 15, wherein said means for identifying for a node address of the one or more node addresses comprises means for performing an operation of the node address and a subnetwork mask corresponding to the node address to obtain an identification of a subnetwork object for the node address.

17. (NEW) The system of claim 16, wherein said operation comprises a logical AND operation.

18. (NEW) The system of claim 14, further comprising means for ordering the one or more priorities.

19. (NEW) The system of claim 14, wherein said service comprises a system registry.

20. (NEW) The system of claim 14, wherein a network object of said one or more network objects is associated with one or more subnetworks, and a subnetwork of said one or more subnetworks is associated with one or more nodes having one or more node addresses.

21. (NEW) The system of claim 14, wherein the traffic for the service is restricted to one or more networks specified for that service.

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22. (NEW) The system of claim 14, further comprising means for obtaining the one or more node addresses.

23. (NEW) The system of claim 22, wherein the obtaining is dependent on the service to be provided.

24. (NEW) The system of claim 22, wherein said service comprises a system registry service, and said means for obtaining comprises means for obtaining the one or more node addresses from a local configuration.

25. (NEW) A system of controlling system traffic of a clustered computing environment, said system comprising:

one or more node addresses for a service to be provided mapped to one or more network objects defined for said service;

one or more priorities of said service obtained from said one or more network objects; and

a node to contact said service based on said one or more priorities.

26. (NEW) At least one program storage device readable by a machine tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of controlling system traffic of a clustered computing environment, said method comprising:

mapping one or more node addresses, for a service to be provided, to one or more network objects defined for said service;

obtaining from said one or more network objects, one or more priorities of said service; and

contacting said service based on said one or more priorities.

27. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 26, wherein said mapping comprises:

identifying one or more subnetwork objects for said one or more node addresses; and

retrieving from said one or more subnetwork objects an indication of the one or more network objects.

28. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 27, wherein said identifying for a node address of the one or more node addresses comprises performing an operation of the node address and a subnetwork mask corresponding to the node address to obtain an identification of a subnetwork object for the node address.

29. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 28, wherein said operation comprises a logical AND operation.

30. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 26, wherein said method further comprises ordering the one or more priorities.

31. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 26, wherein said service comprises a system registry.

32. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 26, wherein a network object of said one or more network objects is associated with one or more subnetworks, and a subnetwork of said one or more subnetworks is associated with one or more nodes having one or more node addresses.

33. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 26, wherein the traffic for the service is restricted to one or more networks specified for that service.

34. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 26, wherein said method further comprises obtaining the one or more node addresses.

35. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 34, wherein the obtaining is dependent on the service to be provided.

36. (NEW) The at least one program storage device of claim 34, wherein said service comprises a system registry service, and said obtaining comprises obtaining the one or more node addresses from a local configuration.